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REBUILDING AFTER FLOODS

Farmers at Panchswar of Munshiganj tend to their seedbeds for winter vegetables. Excessive rain and flooding had destroyed many of their seedbeds and they were having to prepare the seedbeds again, inset, and protect them from the sun. This year, the prices of seeds for winter vegetables spiked significantly, for instance cabbage seeds were Tk 12,000 a kg but now it is Tk 20,000. Rebuilding after the floods has become expensive for farmers.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



War tribunal set to get own manpower

Seeks to recruit staff first; recruitment of officials will take more time

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After four and a half years of its formation, the International Crimes Tribunal is going to get its own manpower for the smooth functioning of the special courts dealing with the sensational trial of the war crimes accused.

In an advertisement published in different daily newspapers on September 11, the tribunal authority sought to recruit third and fourth class employees for 54 posts, bringing an end to a long-drawn-out process, the need for which was felt ever since

the tribunal's inception in March 2010.

In the advertisement, applications for the following posts were requested: stenographer cum computer operator, personal assistant, librarian, accountant, court keeper, office assistant cum computer operator, cashier, driver, dispatch rider, MLSS, servant, night guard, cleaner and data entry operator.

"Rest of the procedures for the recruitment will be completed soon," Arunav Chakraborty, deputy registrar of the tribunal, told The Daily Star.

However, recruitment for the posts of

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It was a plot against govt

PM on Padma bridge graft allegations, says bridge to complete by 2018

UNB, Tungipara, Gopalganj

Terming the allegation of corruption in the Padma bridge project a conspiracy against her government, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated that the construction of the bridge will be completed by 2018.

She was addressing a Shudhi Samabesh (civic rally) after inaugurating a number of projects for Tungipara and Kotlipara upazilas in the district.

Bangladesh has already entered a deal with China Major Bridge Engineering Company Ltd for the construction of the 6.15-km bridge.

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Better ties, greater connectivity

Modi for concrete steps to up Indo-Bangla trade, investment

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for concrete steps to promote Bangladesh-India trade and investment as the two sides agreed that improved connectivity would promote economic cooperation and strengthen people-to-people ties.

The Indian premier made the remarks when Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali called on him at his official Race Course Residence in New Delhi yesterday afternoon. The foreign minister is in New Delhi for



the third meeting of the Bangladesh-India Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) beginning today, where a wide range of issues, including power, connectivity, security, trade and water resources will come up for discussion.

"The past, present and future of India and Bangladesh are interlinked," Modi said, reiterating that India would do everything for the growth, peace and prosperity of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Indian President Pranab

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Pro-Union supporters celebrate as Scottish referendum polling results are announced at the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh, Scotland, yesterday while pro-independence supporters console one another in George Square in Glasgow.



PHOTO: AFP

11b by 2100

World population may grow larger than estimated, says UN-led study

AFP, Washington

The world population may grow larger than previously estimated, reaching 11 billion by century's end, according to a UN-led analysis published Thursday.

That would mean two billion more people on Earth than expected by 2100, largely due to high birth rates in Africa, said the report in the US journal Science.

"The consensus over the past 20 years or so was that world population, which is currently around seven billion, would go up to nine billion and level off or probably decline," said co-author Adrian Raftery, professor of statistics and of sociology at the University of Washington.

"We found there's a 70 percent probability the world population will not stabilize this century," he added.

The study is uses the most recent United Nations population data, released in July, and employs Bayesian statistics to combine all available information to generate better predictions.

Previous estimates typically relied on expert opinions about how life expectancy and fertility rates would change over time.

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SECTOR COMMANDERS' FORUM

Shafiullah replaces AK Khandker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Safiullah Bir Uttam, a sector commander in the 1971 Liberation War, has been elected as chairman of the Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF).

A meeting of the executive council yesterday also accepted the resignation of Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker as the SCF chairman and relieved him of all his duties, said a statement signed by

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Qaeda's South Asia plan 'delusional'

Modi believes Indian Muslims will not respond

AFP, New Delhi

India's prime minister has dismissed al-Qaeda's plan to set up a South Asia branch, saying it was "delusional" to think the country's Muslim minority would follow orders to wage jihad in the region.

"They are doing injustice towards the Muslims of our country," Narendra Modi said in an interview with CNN broadcast yesterday.

"If anyone thinks Indian Muslims will dance to their tune, they are delusional. Indian Muslims will live for India, they will die for India -- they will not want anything bad for India."

It was Modi's first reaction to al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri's announcement this month that the group would set up a new operation to take the fight to India, which has a large but traditionally moderate Muslim population, as well as Myanmar and Bangladesh.

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Nobel prizes for humour in science

AFP, New York

Spoof Nobel prizes that honor the humour in science were handed out at Harvard University Thursday, celebrating the physics of stepping on a banana skin and the neuroscience behind spotting Jesus in toast.

The 24th edition of the annual Ig Nobel Prizes were handed out to winners from across the world by genuine, if baffled, Nobel

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) executive director Sultana Kamal that the risks of child marriage would increase if girls' eligibility for marriage is reduced?

Yes (75%)

No (25%)

TOTAL VOTES: 116

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the European Parliament that the government should establish an independent body to investigate the enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killing cases?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING September 20

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation